

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

• OCT • 75

In Area no. E	Form no. 209
------------------	-----------------



wn Lexington

dress 611 Mass. Ave.

me Obadiah Rufus Parker-Holbrook House

present use Rental

present owner Theodore F Kalem

scription:

re c. 1805

Source Ed Worthen, Lex. Hist. Soc.

le Federal/Italianate

Architect

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings (describe)

Other features Five bay wide, two room deep, center entrance; granite foundation, door step

Altered ca 1850 & later Date

Moved Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre

Approximate frontage 751

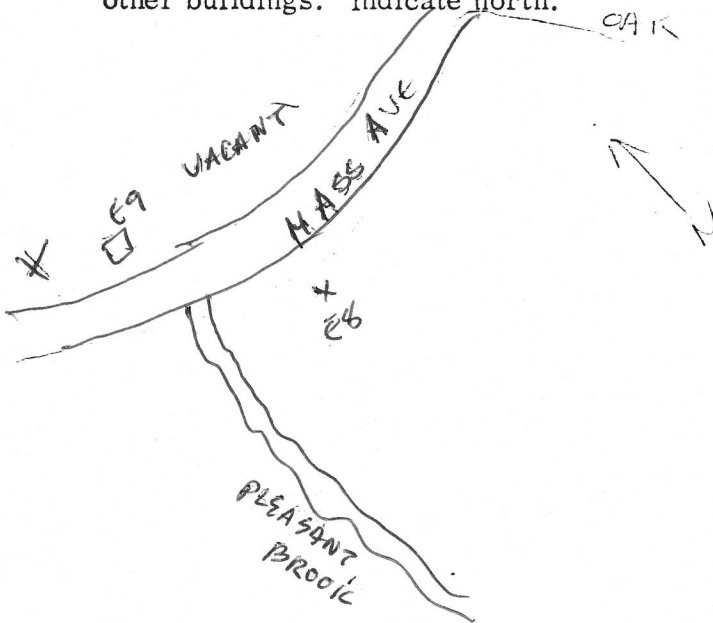
Approximate distance of building from street
20'

6. Recorded by E. W. Reinhardt & Ann Grady

Organization Lex. Hist. Com.

Date 7/1975

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

(over)



Original owner:

Obadiah Parker

<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Descrip: Enclosed porch; door with engaged fluted columnettes w. Corinthian capitols, leaded glass sidelights. Windows on main block have heavy overhanging dentils; roof line broken by center gable w round window. Heavy dentil course at cornice, roof overhang deep w. strong return Center chimney! ? ell to right, 1st story w. rounded and smaller dentils at cornice. 2nd floor slightly set back, 6 x 6 windows except in 1st. floor of ell.

This was the home of Rufus W. Holbrook for more than 30 years. The Holbrook family and the Dana family were very good friends, and on Walling's 1853 map, the Holbrook house is part of the Dana property.

Rufus Holbrook, at 19, went on the gold rush to California, where he stayed for two years. In 1867, he began the grocery business in the Brick Store, the successor to William H. Smith (who was Holbrook's brother-in-law). Holbrook retired in 1906, to be succeeded by Lucius Austin at the Brick Store. Holbrook also was in the milk business at one time. When he began the grocery business, delivery wagons were not in fashion, paper bags were a luxury, and cereals and canned goods did not exist.

Source: Hudson, Volume II, p. 305; oral history (Marguerite Nichols); Lexington Historical Society.

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

Built by Obadiah Parker (see also 627 Mass. Ave).
Worthen, p. 62.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Bryant 60 yrs Ago. Vol II Proceedings.

Piper Vol IV Architectural Yesterdays, p. 116.

E.B. Worthen, Tracing the Past in Lexington, Mass., 1998, p 62